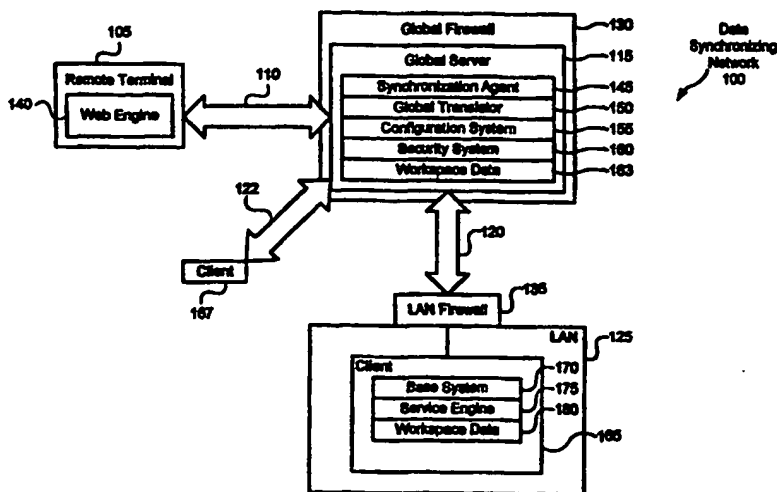




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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR GLOBALLY AND SECURELY ACCESSING UNIFIED INFORMATION IN A COMPUTER NETWORK



(57) Abstract

A client (165) stores a first set of workspace data (180), and is coupled via a computer network (120) to a global server (115). The client (165) may be configured to synchronize portions of the first set of workspace data (180) with the global server (115), which stores independently modifiable copies (163) of the portions. The global server (115) may also store workspace data (163) which is not downloaded from the client (165), and thus stores a second set of workspace data (163). The global server (115) may be configured to identify and authenticate a user seeking global server access from a remote terminal (105), and is configured to provide access to the first set (180) or to the second set (163). Further, services (615) may be stored anywhere in the computer network (100). The global server (115) may be configured to provide the user with access to the services (615). The system (100) may further include a synchronization-start module (820) at the client site (165) (which may be protected by a firewall (135)) that initiates interconnection and synchronization with the global server (115) when predetermined criteria have been satisfied.

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SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR GLOBALLY AND SECURELY ACCESSING
UNIFIED INFORMATION IN A COMPUTER NETWORK

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to computer networks, and more particularly provides a system and method for globally and securely accessing unified information in a computer network.

10 2. Description of the Background Art

The internet currently interconnects about 100,000 computer networks and several million computers. Each of these computers stores numerous application programs for providing numerous services, such as generating, sending and
15 receiving e-mail, accessing World Wide Web sites, generating and receiving facsimile documents, storing and retrieving data, etc.

A roaming user, i.e., a user who travels and accesses a workstation remotely, is faced with several problems. Program designers have developed communication techniques for enabling the roaming user to establish a
20 communications link and to download needed information and needed service application programs from the remote workstation to a local computer. Using these techniques, the roaming user can manipulate the data on the remote workstation and, when finished, can upload the manipulated data back from the remote workstation to the local computer. However, slow computers and slow

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(6) :G06F 13/00 US CL :707/201, 203; 395/187.01, 200.48; 380/49 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 707/201, 203; 395/187.01, 200.48; 380/49 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) APS		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ---- Y	US 4,897,781 A (CHANG ET AL) 30 JANUARY 1990, col. 5, lines 30-68; col. 6, lines 44-68; col. 7, line 41 - col. 9, line 24.	1-7, 12, 16-28, 33-34, 37-50, 55-56, 59-69, 71, 74-75, 77-81 8-11, 13-15, 29-32, 35-36, 51-54, 57-58, 70, 72-73, 76, 82
Y	US 5,623,601 A (VU) 22 APRIL 1997, col. 8, line 28-col. 9, line 15	9-11, 29-32, 51-54, 70, 72-73
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 02 NOVEMBER 1998	Date of mailing of the international search report 26 JAN 1999	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer LE HIEN LUU <i>Joni Hill</i> Telephone No. (703) 305-9650	

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,572,643 A (JUDSON) 05 NOVEMBER 1996, col. 7, line 60-col. 8, line 21	13-15, 35-36, 57- 58, 76, 82
Y	US 5,647,002 A (BRUNSON) 08 JULY 1997, col. 2, line 50-col. 3, line 23	8